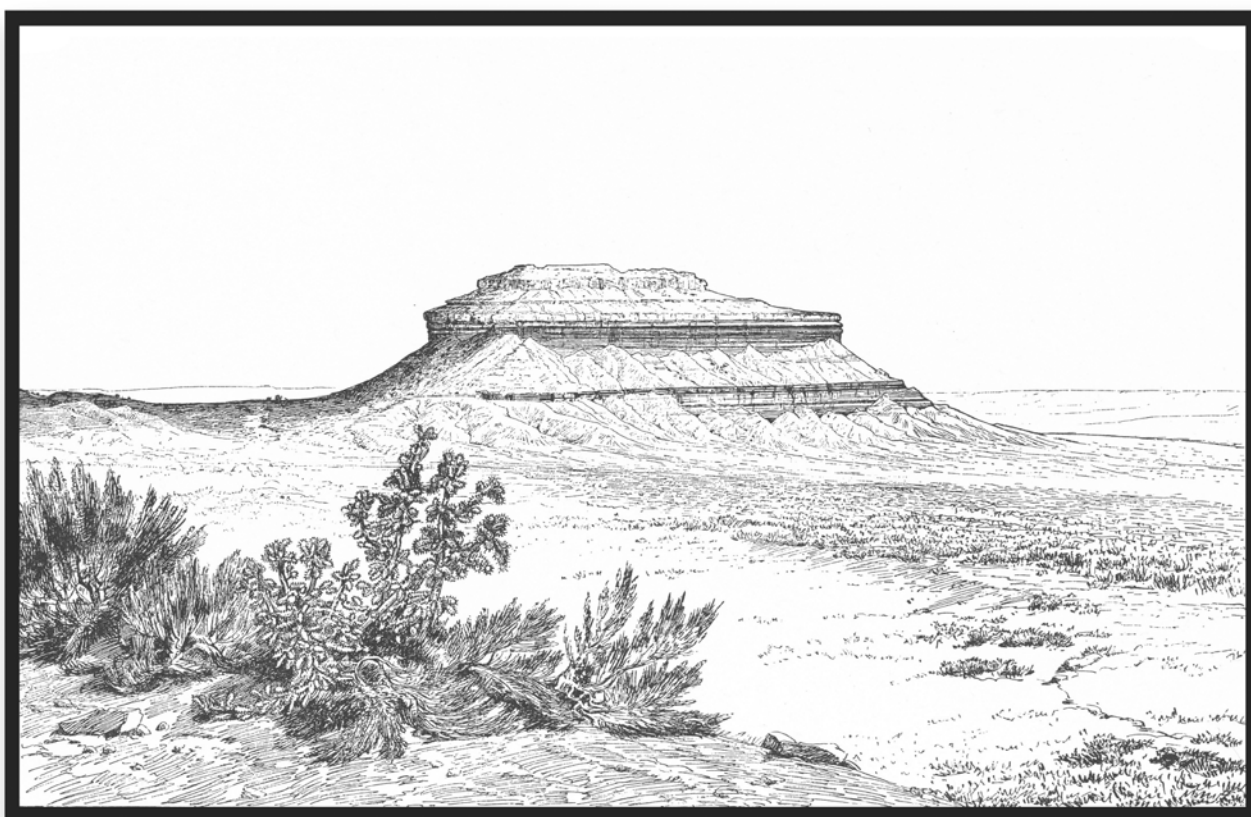


Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft EIS
for the Arizona Strip Field Office,
the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument,
and the BLM Portion of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument,
and a Draft General Management Plan/Draft EIS for the
NPS Portion of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Volume 1



November 2005
U.S. Department of the Interior
Arizona Strip District, Bureau of Land Management
Lake Mead National Recreation Area, National Park Service



ABSTRACT

The Draft RMP/DEIS for the Arizona Strip Field Office, the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and BLM Portion of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and a Draft General Management Plan/Draft EIS for the NPS Portion of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (Draft Plan/DEIS) describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing 3,323,091 acres of BLM and NPS administered land in northwestern Arizona, north of the Grand Canyon. Information provided by the public, other agencies, and organizations, and BLM and NPS personnel have been used to develop and analyze the alternatives in this Draft Plan/DEIS.

Alternative A is the No Action alternative and represents continuation of current management. Alternative B emphasizes minimal human use/influence, and potentially provides the fewest miles of open roads and trails and least resource development. Alternative C represents an attempt to balance resource protection and human use/influence. Alternative D emphasizes maximum appropriate human use/influence and the widest array of recreation opportunities. It potentially includes the most miles of open roads and trails. Alternative E, the agency Preferred Alternative, emphasizes minimal human influence and use in the southern and more remote sections of the Planning Area, and more human use/influence in the northern areas and locations adjacent to communities. It attempts to balance human use/influence with resource protection.

Major issues addressed in the Draft Plan/DEIS include management of access, management of areas having wilderness characteristics, protection of natural and cultural resources, management of livestock grazing and recreation.

Area and length figures throughout this document are based on the best available Geographic Information System (GIS) data at the time of publication. These figures are based on the Universal Transverse Mercator Zone 12 projection referencing the North American Datum of 1983. Analysis and calculation have been made on various GIS layers which may or may not correspond to each other. Differences in area or length correlations between the various calculations in this document are due to minor discrepancies between GIS layers. GIS data layers used in this DEIS may be found at <http://www.nps.gov/para> and possibly at http://www.az.blm.gov/LUP/strip/strip_plan.htm.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

The announcement in the Federal Register that this Draft Plan/DEIS is available begins a 90-day public comment period during which members of the public are encouraged to review the document and provide comments. Those comments addressing the adequacy of the Draft Plan/DEIS will have responses in the Proposed Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In order to be considered in the FEIS, comments must be received within 90 days of the Federal Register Notice of Availability (NOA). Comments may be submitted using any of these methods.

Written comments should be sent to:

Planning Team, Arizona Strip District
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790

E-Mail comments to: Arizona_Strip@blm.gov FAX comments to: (435) 688-3388

Finally, comments may be made in person at any one of the public meetings. See local media or go to www.az.blm.gov or www.nps.gov/para for specific dates and locations.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
www.az.blm.gov or www.nps.gov



In Reply Refer To:
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Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan/DEIS) for the Arizona Strip, which includes the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (Parashant), the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (Vermilion), and the Arizona Strip Field Office planning areas. This document describes and analyzes five alternatives for managing the two National Monuments and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands in the Arizona Strip Field Office (AZ Strip FO).

In January and November of 2000, Presidential Proclamations 7265 and 7374 created the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments, respectively. The Parashant Proclamation directed the BLM and the National Park Service (NPS) to cooperatively manage the Monument. The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument is managed solely by the BLM.

The BLM and NPS published the Notice of Intent to prepare the Draft Plan/DEIS in the *Federal Register* on April 24, 2002. The agencies then published a newsletter and held 11 open houses in 2002 to encourage public input regarding the future management of the National Monuments and the AZ Strip FO. Ten cooperating agencies and a dozen other Federal and State agencies provided information and input into development of the Draft Plan/DEIS. From all this input, the BLM and NPS developed four conceptual alternatives that were presented to the public via newsletters and five open houses. Information from these meetings and the public input were then used to further refine and analyze the impacts of the alternatives and identify a Preferred Alternative.

This Draft Plan/DEIS describes five alternative strategies for managing the Monuments and the AZ Strip FO. Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative. We will use your comments on this document to develop a final decision for the NPS portion of the Parashant, and a Proposed Resource Management Plan for the BLM-administered lands. The final decision and Proposed RMP may be to implement one of the alternatives in its entirety or to use a combination of various actions contained in more than one of the alternatives described in this Draft Plan/DEIS.

We invite your comments on the content of this document. We are particularly interested in comments that address one or more of the following: 1) possible flaws in the analysis;

2) new information that would have a bearing on the analysis; and 3) needs for clarification.

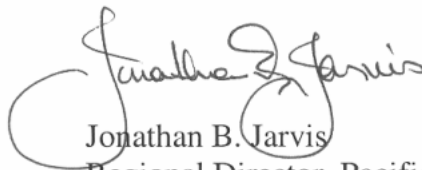
Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Office, at 91 West 1470 South, St. George, Utah 84790, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Public participation is important for the successful development of these plans. We ask for your thoughtful evaluation and comments.

Sincerely,



Elaine Y. Zielinski
Arizona State Director
Bureau of Land Management

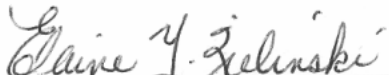


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Regional Director, Pacific West Region
National Park Service

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National Monument and a
Draft General Management Plan and DEIS
for the NPS portion of Grand Canyon-Parashant
National Monument**

Arizona Strip Draft Plan/DEIS

OCTOBER 2005



Elaine Y. Zielinski

**Arizona State Director,
Bureau of Land Management**



Jonathan B. Jarvis

**Regional Director, Pacific West Region
National Park Service**